R Clarke Esq

Leicester Square Feb. 6th 1766
no Dubl 1776.

Dear Sir

Since I wrote you by this opportunity, we have the pleasure of hearing that a number of Ships with supplies had got into Boston from hence, and from Nova Scotia, but dont find that Mr Grays Brig from Ireland had got in, and by what I hear of that Vessell, I fear she may not arrive with you, at least till the Spring.

I have wrote you that I designed to mark the provisions I am sending for Gl Robinson, but being informed yesterday, that Gl How has wrote, that he has countermanded, the part of the 65th Reg. in Boston, from proceeding to Halifax, they will be shipt for Major Small.

I have lately seen Mrs Wilkins, and am informed by her, that Mr Wilkins, has but a small part of one transport, and that it is much out of his way to do anything in the Affair you mention.

I judge it will be extremely difficult ~~but~~ if not impracticable, to send you any live stock from hence, any other

articles

you shall mention, or I shall think will be for your comfort I shall do my best endeavors to send you; if you should be able to get supplies from any part of America, I would advise you, not to depend altogether on getting them from hence, as shipping articles from hence to America, is become difficult; it is to hoped that next Spring the Town will be fully supplied.

I presume that the appointment of Lord Howe to the command of the fleet in America, will be very pleasing to our Friends in Boston, and I hope that the other measures of Government, will when they are known, prove equally satisfactory — A. Dear

Your affectionate Brother

Richard Clarke

Feb.y 19.th My Friends will find by the 4.th date of my letters, when they come to hand, that I have not been unmindful to let them hear from me; some that I wrote long since, and which I thought would be near reaching them before this, are as I fear yet in port, or left lately on the passage from Portsmouth to Ireland. Mr Lyell who was going out in the Greyhound man of war, Secr.y to Admiral Shuldham has on the appointment of Lord Howe returned here from Portsmouth; he informs me that he put my letters with others sent by him into a Box directed to L.d Gov.r Oliver, & committed them to the Capt.n of that Ship. We have lately had several arrivals from Boston, but I have not the pleasure of a line from you; I am glad to hear by G. H. that you have been able to transmit some further part of your property to this place; the money I have rec.d from Mr Hayley does & will rest in the Bankers hands till I can form some better judgement, whether it will be for your interest

RW 309 C,1

to send it out; the difficulty of executing such a schema, is encreased by the late Act of Parliament. but perhaps this may be got over, if there should be no other in the way; I am told that letting money to private persons who are safe, is not readily to be done in this place, and as to purchasing stocks, the present does not appear to me to be a good time, as the American war will occasion a great demand for money, which must I think fall the stocks, at least in a degree equal to a years interest. I shall follow the advice and do with what you have committed to me, the best I can for your interest. The Donation Ship has not yet taken her Cargoe aboard. the Chairman of the committee tells my Son, we shall have order to ship what I have provided, this week.

I am informed that the new Secr. for the American department, pushes the designed measures with spirit, and that the force both by Sea & Land will be great. I may perhaps add another postscript before I have an opportunity of sending this, till when I bid you Farewell.

22. Feb. Yesterday I rec. your favor of 14th Jan. and am very glad to hear that your family had got well through the small pox. The advices we have had lately of the arrival of several vessels with supplies, encourage me to hope that our friends in Boston were secure from the danger of being distressed. I received yesterday an order to ship the provisions for you aboard the donation Ship, but find they have curtailed the inventory I gave in to the Committee, of a considerable part of what I had provided, which I judge is owing to the Ships not being able to carry the whole that was designed. if I cant obtain liberty to ship further by her I shall endeavor to send the remainder by some other opportunity, but when I shall have one is uncertain. I see no prospect of my having it in my power to send you any live stock, I will see Mrs Wilkins and know from her, whether any thing thing can be done by them

J5. 62

I had, before I received your letter, bought the shoes you directed me for your family, in ordering which I made use of Mr. Copley's judgment as to the sizes, as I did not expect you would forward measures so long after you gave me the orders for them; I shall now get the measures from Mrs Wilkins, and if the shoes I have provided are not agreeable to them I'll endeavor to get them changed, but this I fear will be attended with some charge.

I note your order about shipping your Money in a King's Ship only, I don't think it advisable to attempt any this affair, untill we hear what situation the Town is in next Spring, and how exchange will probably govern with you, in the meantime I shall advise with some friends as to the safest and most advantageous way of improving your money here, if it shall finally be thought best not to send it out.

Your late Neighbour goes to another part of the Continent, instead of returning to Boston; I fear that not much attention has been paid to your affair, indeed our mutual friend tells me, that nothing of that kind can be attempted at present; The letter you sent by the Boyne has not yet been delivered.

You will hear from the Gentleman who comes in this Ship what is known abroad, as to the designed measures of Government. I think it not prudent to write any thing of them at present. My Children desire me to tender their dutiful & affectionate regards. I am with hearty wishes for the health & happiness of you & yours

Dear Sir

Your affectionate Brother & Friend

Richard Clarke

Mr. Copley's Leicester Square

East Side.

RWJ 309(2)